

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8859

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT MURDERED

1. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY, GUILLERMO (GIMO) DEVEGA (ONE OF PRESIDENT MARCOS'S THREE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS), WAS SHOT IN HIS MALACANANG OFFICE JUST AFTER NOON MONDAY, OCT 27. DEVEGA'S ALLEGED ASSALIENT WAS PAULINO "NONOY" ARCEO, A FORMER JOURNALIST AND ENTERTAINMENT PROMOTER. ALSO PRESENT IN DEVEGA'S OFFICE DURING THE SLAYING WAS ASSISTANT FISCAL LARRY LAQUI. ARCEO REPORTEDLY FIRED AT LEAST FOUR SHOTS AT DEVEGA WHO WAS DECLARED DOA AT SINGIAN CLINIC NEAR MALACANANG.

2. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF SILENCE, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS LOOKING INTO TWO POSSIBLE MOTIVES FOR KILLING: (A) EXTORTION OR (B) CONSPIRACY, ALTHOUGH AUTHORITIES VIRTUALLY RULED OUT ANY POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE KILLING.

3. DEVEGA, A MARCOS INTIMATE FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, WAS MOST RECENTLY IN THE NEWS IN CONNECTION WITH PRIMITIVO MIJARES ALLEGATIONS MARCOS HAD ATTEMPTED BRIBE HIM NOT TO APPEAR BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO MIJARES, DEVEGA WAS INTERMEDIARY IN BRIBERY OFFER. IN ADDITION TO
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BEING MARCOS'S ASSISTANT FOR APPOINTMENTS (DEVEGA'S OFFICE

VETTED AND PROCESSED ALL PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS BELOW CABINET LEVEL), THE MURDERED SPECIAL ASSISTANT, WHO HAD CABINET STATUS, WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF CENSORS WHICH PASSED ON FILMS. HE WAS ALSO NEW SOCIETY'S LAUREATE, HAVING PUBLISHED "FERDINAND MARCOS: AN EPIC" LITTLE OVER A YEA YAGO.

4. OCTOBER 28 TIMES JOURNAL, WHICH CARRIES FULLEST ACCOUNT OF DEVEGA SLAYING, REPORTS POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING TWO POSSIBLE MOTIVES FOR MURDER. FIRST IS THAT KILLING IS CONNECTED WITH BANNING OF SOME FOREIGN FILMS IMPORTED BY ARCEO. THE OTHER IS THAT IT QUOTE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CASE OF A FORMER NEWSMAN NOW IN THE US UNQUOTE. ARCEO RAN COOPERATIVE STORE FOR NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AND REPORTEDLY WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WFGTH MIJARES.

5. COMMENT: WE FORBEAR SPECULATION ON MOTIVATION IN DEVEGA SLAYING UNTIL MORE FACTS AVAILABLE. MURDER OF KEY PRESIDENTIAL AIDE IN MALACANANG COMPOUND, HOWEVER, WILL FURTHER TARNISH NEW SOCIETY'S PEACE-AND-ORDER IMAGE. DEVEGA, THROUGH HIS APPOINTMENTS OFFICE, PLAYED KEY ROLE IN NEW SOCIETY. WITH PRESIDENT ABLE TO APPOINT ALL LOCAL OFFICIALS AT END 1975, DEVEGA'S POWERS MIGHT HAVE INCREASED. IT WILL BE MOST INTERESTING TO SEE WHOM MARCOS CHOOSES AS DEVEGA'S SUCCESSOR. SULLIVAN

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